

WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019

The Warren County Council were sworn in by Michelle Hetrick, Clerk for their first meeting of April 2019. Present for the meeting were: John Comer, Matt Commons, Sharon Hutchison, Neil Ellis, Ethan Foxworthy, George Taylor and Lee Kay. Also, in attendance are Rusty Hart, Randy Haddock, Clay Andrews, John Kuiper, Kaileigh Pruitt, Rusty Lynn Pruitt, Jessica Zak, Michele Stucky, Kelly Pearson, Jean Akers, Jenny Hobaugh, Matt Herndon, Devin Darner, Trent Taylor, Sarranitti Hood.

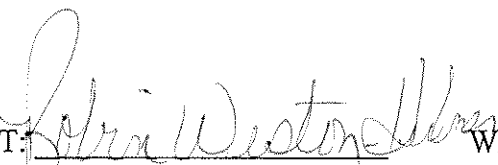
1. The meeting was called to order by John Comer, Council President.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Comer.
3. New Business:
 - a. Meeting Agenda Approval – Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the agenda with a second of Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
 - b. Lee Kay made a motion to approve the March 25, 2019 minutes with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor and the minutes were signed.
 - c. John Comer, President welcomed our new Council Member Ethan Foxworthy. All Council Members introduced themselves to the public.
 - d. Kelly Pearson, Purdue Extension – Data Manager Position. Pearson explained that Billy Jo Pummel will be retiring in September. Pummel's position is a part time Data Manager position. Pearson explained the position which includes the 4-H online system, Fair organization, Fair Entry Program and activities at the fair. Pearson would like to hire a new employee prior to Pummels retirement for training, preparation for the State Fair, preparation for the 2020 4-H fair and other upcoming items. Pearson estimates the cost for the overlap of employees would be \$4,800.00. The State has a program called Earn Indiana for college students to intern at County Extension offices. Pearson explained that the program will reimburse half of the intern salary which would be approximately \$2,500 back into the general fund. Pearson introduced extension members Michell Stucky, Jessica Zack and Jean Akers. George Taylor inquired about the time line of the employee overlap. Pearson explained she would advertise position with the intention of hiring prior to the 4-H fair. Sharon Hutchison inquired about hiring with funds already approved in budget. Weston-Hubner explained the additional appropriation timeline which would be approximately 6 weeks. Discussion was held concerning hiring prior to finalization of the additional appropriation from the original budget. Lee Kay made a motion to approve an additional appropriation of \$5,000 from County General with a second from George Taylor, all voted in favor. The Council approved for Pearson to begin the hiring process immediately. Pearson explained that she will present her budget to the Council at the June 24th meeting.
 - e. Highway Department - Matt Herndon, Highway Supervisor and Jenny Hobaugh, Highway Office Manager explained the purchase of a new ditching machine was approved by the commissioners for \$37,500. The machine will arrive in June. The budget in Fund 1169, Local Road and Street, for equipment will be used for the 2 new tandem trucks which will leave approximately \$17,500 in the equipment line. Herndon explained how the ditching machine operates. The fund balance in Highway fund is \$1,067,259.27. Lee Kay made a motion to approve an additional appropriation of \$30,000 from the Highway fund balance, 1176, to the equipment line for the purchase of a new ditcher with a second from Matt Commons, all voted in favor. Herndon explained summer projects that are planned. The Community Crossing Grant work will begin in the near future. Hobaugh explained the 2020 Community Crossing Grant application is being prepared for submittal. Herndon explained there will be a bridge, paving in the unincorporated towns, etc. included.
 - f. Jenny Hobaugh, Solid Waste Director, explained the new Solid Waste facility that will be built in May. Hobaugh inquired about a new board member from the Council as Clay Andrews has moved to Commissioners. The Board meets the second Monday of each month at 8:00 a.m. George Taylor is on the Board presently. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to appoint Lee Kay to the Solid Waste Board with a second from Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
 - g. John Larson, Prosecuting Attorney explained that he is making the election from part time to full time prosecutor as the activity has increased considerably. Larson explained that he will be retiring from private practice in June and the prosecutor position is a State paid position. Larson explained the Council must approve for the Prosecutor to be full time as per State code. This will be effective June 28th. Lee Kay read the Resolution in full. Neil Ellis made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-005 for John Larson to be full time Warren County Prosecutor with a second from Matt Commons, all voted in favor. The resolution was signed by all.
 - h. Rusty Hart, Sheriff presented an update on the police retirement plan. The actuarial evaluation was presented to the Council. Hart explained the retirement plan was started in 2008 which was approved by the Council. We are currently 70% funded in the accrued liabilities. The average age of the Warren County deputies is 34.8 years old. The young force will also help to grow the plan. The vested time limit is 8 years for elected officials and 10 years for all other enrollees. The only other option is PERF which would only provide 25% of salary after working 30 years. Hart explained that Sheriff Department salaries are comparable to the other counties. Currently the plan is very good with the stock market actuarial assets vs liabilities of 69.4%. The 2020 budget request will be \$120,525. George Taylor inquired about the retirement salary. Hart explained the retirement salary calculations and the liability dropped due to younger deputies. Originally there were 7 deputies and now 9 deputies are participating. Hart explained the annual jail inspection report. The Jail passed with great reviews. Matt Commons inquired about the structural issues in the recreational area that have been ongoing. Hart explained the repairs will be addressed in the near future. The jail was built in 1992.
 - i. Warren County Park Board appointment. George Taylor made a motion to reappoint John Henry to the Warren County Park Board with a second from Lee Kay, all voted in favor.
 - j. St Vincent EMS – Weston-Hubner presented the St Vincent 9-month financial report and EMS activity report. The 3rd ambulance is being stored in the EMA building as it was not being stored inside.
 - k. Budget calendar for 2020 – Weston-Hubner explained the dates for the 2020 budget cycle.
 - l. Longevity Rate Increase – Weston-Hubner presented longevity studies from several other counties comparing to Warren County. Warren County is the lowest of the same size and surrounding counties. Lee Kay stated she has discussed a longevity increase with other office holders. John Comer stated that the employee handbook should include this. Kay explained that a committee will be formed to review the Employee Handbook in the near future.
 - m. Sharon Hutchison discussed the possibility of assigning 2 council members to each department head with the purpose of contact to discuss issues prior to meetings. Weston-Hubner will present the departments to the Council for the assignments at the next Council meeting.

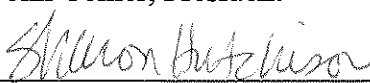
- n. John Comer explained the abatement for the Jordan Creek Windfarm could possibly change due to the request for the start date change and combination of phases. The extension would change the tax abatement from a 3 phase to a 1 phase. The last 2 phase abatements are currently 100% and the first phase abatement is currently a 10% per year. NextEra is supposed to start building by Nov 15th this year and they are requesting a later start date. Comer explained that if the Commissioners approve the extension, the Council would need to look at changing the abatement schedule. Comer explained the circuit breakers could be hit each year which will be discussed during budget time. Matt Commons explained a study that projected over the next 30 years, personal property decrease of 20% to tax base with a cap on property taxes. Lee Kay stated that the decommission agreement is something that she would like to see changed so that the County can choose what is best for the County. Matt Commons stated that in future, we will end up with more types of renewable energy. After much discussion, it was decided to have a joint meeting with the Commissioners and Council in the near future. Weston-Hubner explained the APC meeting will be scheduled soon for the requested change to the WEC sound and setback ordinance.
- o. Weston-Hubner informed the Council of an invitation to the Health Department Budget meeting May 13th at 6:30 p.m.

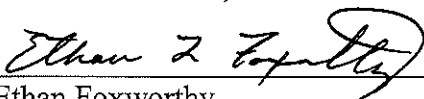
- 4. Elected Official/Officer Holder Comment:
- 5. Old Business:

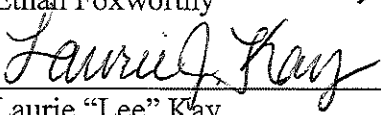
The next County Council meeting will be Tuesday May 28, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

There being no further business, George Taylor made a motion to adjourn with a second from Neil Ellis.


ATTEST:  WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL
Robin Weston-Hubner

John Comer, President


Sharon Hutchison, Vice President


Ethan Foxworthy


Laurie "Lee" Kay

Neil Ellis


Matt Commons

George Taylor